

Nantucket School Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2019

Present Members: Vice Chair Timothy Lepore, Zona Butler, Pauline Proch, & Steve Sortevik and Student Council Representative, Joel MacVicar

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM, by Vice Chair Tim Lepore, in the Nantucket High School LGI. Steve Sortevik asked to amend the agenda, removing the CPS Handbook from the voting section, to review at a later date, and because no invited students could attend tonight's meeting, to move the National Merit Scholars and the MASS Award to a Senior to a later meeting in November. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the amended agenda, it was seconded by Steve Sortevik and was approved unanimously.

Comments from the Public

Community Member, Mrs. Edie Ray addressed the School Committee, reading a statement about an incident that happened earlier that day involving a NHS gym class biking on the Surfside bike path. Mrs. Ray was very concerned as she described her recount of events and her attempt to address unsafe biking of the class. She did not think the class yielded properly to the stop signs along the route and was worried about a car hitting one of the students. She tried to connect with the Principal numerous times, but did not have the opportunity to talk to him in what she felt was a timely manner. She reported the events to the NPD and finally spoke with Officer Mansfield, SRO. She was not happy at the slow response time from the school and the Police Department, to what she felt was a very unsafe situation and she was further unhappy with her conversation with the Officer, feeling as though he was curt and stating to her, Mrs. Ray, she had mishandled the situation.

Superintendent Cozort took this opportunity to address, under Public Comment, his hope that staff, students and the community are feeling settled after last Friday's Lockdown event. He briefly talked about the letter he wrote to the community to address the positive takeaways and the learning opportunities that the False Alarm Lockdown event offered.

Presentations and discussions of interest to the Committee

School Resource Officers Update – SRO's Keith Mansfield and Cassandra Thompson

Officer Thompson began that no day is a 'normal day' and there is nothing ever typical, but the SRO's have a general outline: they arrive early at 7-7:30 am and assist with Breakfast programs, morning drop off - parking and busing; they consult with school staff; walk through the schools; wander through Lunches; train teachers and staff on lockdown protocols and keep them updated on current teen trends (vaping as an example); meet with parents; handle truancy situations and DCF reporting; handle juvenile criminal cases; provide Bike and Halloween safety; and assist with pick up and clearing students from school at the end of the day. In between, so many occasions present themselves that call on them and/or directs their attention to situations. Officer Thompson also teaches the Intro to Criminal Justice in NHS and Officer Mansfield periodically brings K9 Moby for drug dog work.

A key element to the SRO presence in school is the opportunities for them to build relationships. Two specific programs that helps to do this: the Leadership Explorers club (previously the YELL group) working with CPS students in collaboration with the Police department; and the Community School. They like this club because it provides a program that does volunteer work and fundraising, proving to the students they can do a lot of good things and make an impact on others even if you are young. The other program is Shop with a Cop, back to school and Christmas time shopping to provide a chance for a student to go splurge for a day. This is sponsored by the Cape & Islands District Attorney's Office and the Patrolman's Union who pay for the clothes and toys. Steve Sortevik asked a question concerning Governor Baker's Vape ban and if this was making an impact on student use. The Officers responded the ban is on the sale of vaping products and they were not sure at this time how much of an impact it has or not. Superintendent Cozort confirmed the Health Department enforces this ban and he will follow up with them. Mrs. Proch is very concerned about the cannabis drug use with students and queried if the officers are able to have these conversations with students. Officer Thompson did feel they have built good relationships with students, the officers are accessible and present, and hopefully the students will hear what they have to say. Officer Mansfield described starting three years ago in this position at the Elementary level and as the students have grown and moved

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into middle school, he feels solid about his relationships progressing with them through the years. Mrs. Butler voiced her worry about the selling of drugs and can the student/SRO conversations ever help in catching the sellers. She heard the Town is establishing a Task Force regarding this topic and wants the School Committee to be represented in these conversations.

MCAS Results – Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Hallett & Director of C&A, Michael Horton

Now that the MCAS results have been officially released, Mr. Michael Horton and Dr. Elizabeth Hallett delivered general MCAS data noting there will be a more in-depth “deep dive” in a Workshop Session in October. Mr. Horton was very excited to present the MCAS results, because this was the first time in seven years the data was a consecutive three years in a row for grades 3-8. He reviewed the timeline of MCAS, then PARCC and then MCAS 2.0, the next generation, and shared he feels this rendition is a more balanced system based on averages of your own school. This makes your own district benchmark a response to your own district averages and better captures student data. He talked about needing to shift thinking when looking at achievement levels because the scoring is slightly different. He also reminded the School Committee that NHS Science is still working under the old system, but they can still see some trends and react to the highs and lows to determine what is working and where more work needs to be a focus. He turned over the presentation to Dr. Hallett who broke down in a PowerPoint, a graph for each grade and subject and showed the movements from the last two years to present. Our data from the Department of Education shows the following breakdown in very general results:

Grade 3 ELA	Nice improvement
Grade 4 ELA	Equal to State in Not meeting expectations – a little struggling
Grade 5 ELA	Nice gains
Grade 3 Math	Significant increases
Grade 4 Math	Not meeting expectations dropped, which is a positive
Grade 5 Math	Great increases in student growth
Grade 5 Science	Some success, but there is not straight comparison
Grade 6 ELA	First of 3 years of next gen data, showing steady improvement
Grade 7 ELA	Slight decline, need to watch but the needs improvement % has decreased
Grade 8 ELA	Slight decline, need to watch, but students are moving up to partially meeting exp.
Grade 6 Math	Slight recovery in average growth, showing steady improvement
Grade 7 Math	Small regression
Grade 8 Math	Steady gains, showing solid growth and appropriate growth
Grade 8 Science	Closing the gap, shows legacy and next gen data
Grade 10 ELA	Next gen = first time for different scoring systems, give a baseline and shows higher
than the state in our school scoring	
Grade 10 Math	Same baseline showing healthy student growth, 10 pts above state
NHS Bio	Last time for legacy – dipped a little but still above state averages

Dr. Hallett was pleased with the results overall and looked forward to reviewing the more in-depth details which will help the efforts to drive instruction going forward. The goal is to look at students tracking over time, and their progression. Mr. Horton reviewed cumulative target percentages for NIS, CPS and NHS and showed the score values and how they mark each school by a value, 75% of total possible points of improvement targets is the goal. The score carries with each school thus the school having its own benchmark. At this time, NIS scored 80%, Meeting or Exceeding Expectations, CPS scored 63% Showing substantial progress toward target and NHS scored 67%, showing substantial progress toward target. The summary of the results offers most grade levels scaled score averages very close to the Meeting Expectations Target and in the subgroups, all were in the 80% area. Steve Sortevik had a few questions about cohorts and biology scores. He also thanked Dr. Hallett and the CPS Schedule Task Force for taking a more zeroed in look at the CPS Schedule. He feels the 7th grade needs more focused work and hopes this is a factor in the scheduling piece. Master Joel MacVicar added he likes the comparison of this Next Generation scoring, feeling it creates a more positive environment.

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Committee discussion and votes to be taken

Vote to Approve CPS Handbook tabled to the next meeting

Vote to Approve the FY21 Budget Directives

With clarification of budgeting process in the past 10 years, Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Artell & Alice Crowley to NHS for Woodshop tech, \$750.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Joseph L. Viera Fund, Inc to NHS Athletics for 36 pair of Champion Sweatpants & 65 pair Champion training shorts with Whaler Logo for football practice purposes, \$1,857.50 Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Steve Sortevik, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation to NCS from Brenda Noll & Kevin Martin to NHS Woodshop tech, \$1,000.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from Edukit, Inc. for CPS, as a referral Bonus, \$200.00 Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve by, seconded by Pauline Proch, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve Donation from MUSACK for NES Cape Cod Symphony Field Trip, \$1,500.00 Pauline Proch made a motion, seconded by Zona Butler, with none opposed, the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve September 17, 2019 Meeting Minutes. Pauline Proch made a motion to approve the minutes, Steve Sortevik seconded, and the motion was approved.

Vote to Approve the Transfers & Invoices

Steve Sortevik made a motion to approve the transfers and invoices, Zona Butler seconded, the motion was approved.

Superintendent Report

Enrollment

Superintendent Cozort commented this is the first time in ten years the enrollment has only gone up in the single digits. October is our official count for the Commonwealth and we are waiting for confirmation on our numbers as we finalize the state reporting. At October 1st for this year we have increased by only two students, but the needs of the total students have significantly increased, especially in our numbers for Special Needs, English Learners and emotional and social needs. He pointed out the 9th grade numbers decreasing from 153 to 143, mostly due to credit recovery and students moving into proper grade slots. He also pointed out the CPS numbers with 6th grade being a larger class, the NIS shows a smaller class due to moving up to CPS, and the NES PreK knowingly large, moving into the district this year. Next month enrollment will show the movement of students Entering and Withdrawing as we offer the month to month comparison.

Homeschooling

Few children are currently homeschooling and over the last few years there have not been many families who choose this educational path. In a three-year comparison, 2017 had 2 students, 2018 had 1, and 2019 has 3, one in 4th, one in 5th and one in 6th grades. It is difficult to track students if their parents do not properly notify the district and complete appropriate paperwork. Dr. Lepore asked if parents are required to enroll through the school and if not, how do we know about anyone “underground”. Superintendent’s response was they are required to do so by DESE, but we might or might not know if they are out there.

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MASC/MASS Joint Annual Conference

Dr. Hallett encouraged the School Committee to take part in the Annual Conference along with her and handed out information and schedules to the committee so they could peruse the topics and discussions that will be offered in November. The conference will be in Hyannis MA and will allow for networking and meeting other Superintendents and School Committees.

Subcommittees & Acknowledgements

Sub-Committees:

Policy – Met and reviewed the CPS Handbook. The document is not quite ready to be voted and accepted.

Acknowledgements:

Steve Sortevik reiterated his concern about the budget process, the future budget and referred to the CPS MCAS scores showing the need for more instruction (especially in Math) and he hopes this will be reflected in the budget discussions.

On the Horizon

The deep dive for MCAS will be scheduled for October 8 in the NPS District Conference room at 4pm. October 15 could be a regularly scheduled meeting, or a Workshop and it was decided to keep the second meeting as a workshop for School Committee Goals. Again, Mr. Sortevik asked to include some budget discussion at the October 15 meeting because he feels starting these conversations later in the year is too late. Superintendent Cozort said the budget numbers are not yet in from the Admin team and everything starts with a Budget Forecast, referring to the Director of Finance, Martin Anguelov, for more information. Mr. Anguelov confirmed the roll forward numbers are based on numbers due to him from the Principals by October 25. This is when he can prepare his most accurate accounting. Superintendent Cozort also mentioned the Budget Calendar (submitted by Town Administration) has not been submitted and there is not much to be done without that timeline. Mr. Sortevik urged the committee to include the conversations in the Workshop on the 15th. Pauline Proch strongly advised not to rush the Administrators to provide numbers so that they may present the most precise numbers, Zona Butler supported having the conversation. It was agreed to include some preliminary discussions.

Student Council

Joel MacVicar shared the students are very thankful to the staff and the NPD, referring to Friday's Lockdown and ultimate outcome (a false alarm), and he feels safer knowing how ready and well educated the students and staff are about reacting and following protocols to this type of situation. He also wanted to mention Homecoming is around the corner and everyone is excited to decorate hallways and take part in the pep rally and the homecoming parade.

At 7:26 pm the School Committee adjourned on a motion made by Pauline Proch and seconded by Steve Sortevik, and unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Logan O'Connor, School Committee Clerk